

TWO CONVENTIONS.

The Clarksville Chronicle purports to give a list of the Tennessee papers opposed to one convention for the nomination of candidates for the Supreme Bench and Governor, and in favor of two conventions, one to nominate a candidate for Governor, and one to nominate candidates for the Supreme Bench. In this list the Columbia Herald is mentioned. We desire to say that the Columbia Herald has pronounced neither for one or two conventions as yet, whatever its views may be, and that assigning it this place in this list is a mistake. To us it seems the entire discussion of the convention question is premature, and, until the convention or conventions meet, the people will be sick of the entire question, and willing to do without conventions. About the strongest argument in favor of two conventions is antiquity and precedent, and it has its weight, although it is not conclusive. What we would like to know is why two conventions are better than one, or one better than two? In other words, why we started the two convention system? In this we seek for information and not for the purpose of a wrangle.—*Columbia Herald.*

The CHRONICLE's list was published three weeks ago. It was immediately copied into some of the leading Tennessee dailies and has subsequently been reprinted in numerous weekly papers throughout the State. There were forty papers in the list given by the CHRONICLE and the assertion made was that we believed they all favored two conventions. Only one paper, the Maury Democrat, has denied the correctness of the supposition. The Columbia Herald, which we quote above, says it has not made up its mind. The Springfield Record, which we put down on the other side, has since declared itself in favor of two conventions and several other papers that we didn't mention at all, have come out that way.

We challenge the Nashville American, or any other journal, to make complete and correct lists of the papers on both sides of this question, and will venture the assertion that the number favoring the old way, the way indicated by the constitution, and by good sense, is as four to one to the number favoring the one convention scheme.

The Columbia Herald is a paper of conservative tone and calm judgment, and we still believe that it will fall in line with what we deem the right side.

The Herald is right in saying that the discussion of the matter is premature. But it was raised by the Nashville American, posing as the party's organ and professing to speak by the card in all that pertains to party management. That paper and the Franklin Review and Journal went so far as to state that the one convention idea had been generally rejected by the Democratic press of the State. This was not true, and had to be corrected. The heresy had to be combated in its incipency.

There are many reasons why the two convention plan should be adhered to, except that of precedent, which the Herald acknowledges is in itself potent.

Can't the Herald tell us why it is preferable to elect judges in August instead of November? Why it is in every way best to separate the selection of the judiciary and political officers?

But the onus of argument in this particular is on those who advocate a change. What reason can they give for the proposed departure from party usage? Some miserable boob about economy is all that we have heard advanced. Since the expenses of a convention are not paid out of the State treasury or even the funds of the party, where does the economy come in?

The real secret of the project is nothing more than this: Mr. John J. Vertrees imagines himself the Democratic boss in Tennessee. He wishes to dictate who shall fill all the offices and he thinks he can control a purely political convention better than one assembled for the civil purpose of selecting a Supreme Court.

It behooves the people to defeat such a scheme, and they will do it. Two Democratic conventions will be held next year. Both should be made up exclusively of Democrats, and the candidates chosen by both should be Democrats. All classes of people should participate in both. The opinion of lawyers should have weight as to the legal qualifications of candidates for Judges, but all classes must participate in their nomination.

It is primarily requisite that a body that is to select Judges be in a calmer and more deliberative mood than one swayed by the passions and controlled by the intrigues that always enter into political conventions.

The Supreme Judges hold their offices for eight years, the Governor is elected for four. The fact that the American is a stickler for party usage in all things, but proposes to depart from it in this instance, gives ground for suspicion of machine methods.

The old custom will not be departed from.

The following paragraph occurs in Grant's paper, the Siege of Vicksburg, published in the September of 1863: "On the 20th of May I sent Blair's division up the Yazoo to drive out a force of the enemy supposed to be between the Big Black and the Yazoo. The country was rich and full of supplies of both food and forage. Blair was instructed to take all of it. The cattle were to be driven in for the use of our army and the food and forage to be consumed by our troops or by fire. All bridges were to be destroyed and the roads rendered as nearly impassable as possible." All of this came out of the exigencies of war, but is it not marvelous that the people who were thus pillaged can now speak of Gen. Grant as a patriot and a hero?

The Nashville American published a list of several papers which it said agreed with it in the one convention idea, and the Clarksville Democrat was in the list. This was a mistake which the Tobacco Leaf and the Democrat itself both corrected, but the American has failed to publish the corrections. The American is the paper that carries about being misrepresented.

WHAT HAS BECOME OF ALFONSO'S COMMISSION AS AN ULLAN COLONEL?

"The Macon, (Ga.) Telegraph, in speaking of Mr. Cable's 'Silent South' suggests that a Silent Cable would be much appreciated by the country."

If Alfonso fights Germany, the Parisians are probably prepared to take back the insults they offered him when he passed through that city.

If the American succeeds in having its civil rights commission enacted, it will insist on having "Mr. Edward Shaw" for one of the commissioners?

Chattanooga never suffers itself to be outdone in enterprise by its rival, Knoxville. The latter city had a knocking Friday night and the former got up one for Sunday.

A paragraph printed in the CHRONICLE last week which said something about the "cunning case of the National Review" should have been credited to the West Tennessee Whig.

"C. E. M." found one man in Memphis who endorsed the American's negro policy. It was ex-Gov. Alcorn, of Mississippi, a noted Republican politician in scalawag times.

The police of Jackson, Michigan, raided a big gambling house Saturday night, and among the players captured were the Mayor and City Attorney. Who is going to prosecute in that case?

Paris papers complain that Bismarck is trying to involve France in the Germano-Spanish difficulty. If there is any chance of licking Bismarck, wonder if France wouldn't like to get "involved."

Gov. Hoadly's opening speech at Manchester was splendid. There are points in Hoadly's character that we don't admire, but we are prepared to forgive him everything if he will continue that kind of a canvass.

The new postal card is not so nice as the old one. The picture of Thomas Jefferson is not as pretty as that of the Goddess of Liberty, and the printing on the new card is not so neat and artistic as was that on the old.

Some of our exchanges are urging editor Elmer as a candidate for Governor. If a good newspaper man has to be spoiled for the purpose, we don't know any one who would do better for the sacrifice than the Jackson journalist.

"MR. EDWARD SHAW" was acquitted of the charge of perjury on his recent trial in the Memphis Criminal court. It was not necessary for Col. Paternall, Johnson to "wire Harris" the good news. The senior Senator was in the city.

If our esteemed contemporary down the street can't discriminate between a hired editor and a hired blackguard, it is not our fault. But to please that very bright journal we will amend the expression to which it objects by making it read "Mr. Vertrees' salaried blackguard."

The young editor of the Brownsville Democrat is trying to heap coils of fire on our head. In reply to an ungenerous fling we made at him he pays us a nice compliment. We will take back all we said that was mean. The editor of the Democrat is a scholar and a gentleman.

Every paper and every person that don't agree with the Nashville American is accused by the organ either of being bribed or of being impelled by some sinister motive. It goes so far as to say that the Shelby county Grand Jury indicted "Mr. Edward Shaw" in order to defeat him for surveyor of customs at Memphis.

According to the American's count there are only two Democratic papers in East Tennessee, yet there are fifteen journals in that division of the State that have always proclaimed the party's principles. If the American thus out voters in the same proportion that it throws papers overboard, the Democratic party in Tennessee has a lamentably small following.

What do the bloody shirt agitators of the North propose? Is it really their desire to do as Gov. Hoadly says—"To govern the South from the North as Dublin Castle governs Ireland." Such an idea is as silly out of date as slavery and state sovereignty. The Republican party with no better doctrine than this is certainly slipping into the senile age of the lean and slipped pantaloon.

The seal of a new convert in contrast with the judgment of one born in the faith, is illustrated by the manner in which John Sherman's bloody shirt speech was treated by the National Review and the Chattanooga Commercial. John J. Littleton, who edits the former paper, was until recently a Democrat, but he endorses all that Sherman said, while Harry Griscom, of the Commercial, who has always been a Republican, admonishes the Ohio Senator to go slow.

"S. M. A. C." strikes the race question square and correct when she says "Lugging the negroes into politics was the crime of the century, and all well wishers of the race must pronounce on those who would prolong it a double anathema." Since the civil rights bill was declared unconstitutional, this question has been relegated to the natural intercourse of private life for adjustment and settlement. The Nashville American seeks again to bring it into Tennessee politics to help along its railroad commission project.

The people of Georgia have grown weary of their railroad commission and the papers and prominent men of the State are expressing themselves that way. Of course this all goes against the grain of the Nashville American, and it proceeds to accuse every paper and person that has made such an utterance of bribery, and to turn them into the Democratic party. If Georgia should conclude to rid herself of this commission, foolishness we suppose the American will decide that it is a Republican State, whereas Illinois, where they still have a commission, is "a natural Democrat."

KEEP YOUR LAMPS TRIMMED AND BURNING.

Rev. John Cole, a Lebanon evangelist, now preaching in Indiana, has written to a prominent citizen in Lebanon in which he writes him that "The sun will disappear from the sight of mortal man at high noon, sharp, on the 22d of September, and darkness will reign supreme, for five and one-half days." He admonishes all the people to keep their lamps trimmed and oil cans replenished in preparation for the long night.

The following is given as the basis of the prophecy:

It has been 1822 years and three days since the death of Christ, and on the 8th of August the bible fulfilled, and the number that Christ was designated by was one hundred and forty and four thousand, and it was necessary that the world stand forty-four days after the bible fulfilled.

In speaking of the impending gloom the Lebanon Herald says:

We trust that the timely warning of an impending calamity which he gives will be heeded by our citizens, and that no foolish virgin will be caught short on oil.

For some cheerful reading to place a person in a proper frame of mind to enjoy the long dark spell, we would recommend Byron's poem which begins:

"I had a dream, it was not all a dream." We feel a poignant regret that the light is to go out just a few days before the circus was to have been here.

Death of W. H. Cherry.

Mr. W. H. Cherry, a prominent citizen of Nashville, and probably the wealthiest man in Tennessee, died Friday night, of Bright's disease of the kidneys. Mr. Cherry was born in Hardin county in this State in 1822. His parents were poor, but his education was very meager. When quite young he went to Savannah, the county seat of Hardin county, to clerk in a store. He afterwards became a merchant in that place, where he continued to do business up to the time of the war. He held the offices of County Clerk and Trustee during his residence in Savannah, and grew to be a rich man, for that section. He was a Union man, and went North during the war, but he returned, but returned to the South later to speculate in cotton, etc., at which he greatly increased his fortune. After the war he resided in Memphis until 1871, when he removed to Nashville, and in connection with Tom O'Connor, became a lessee of the Tennessee penitentiary. Mr. Cherry was not an active politician, but no man ever exercised a greater influence in Tennessee politics than he did in his own quiet and peculiar way.

He was the owner of the Nashville World, and kept that paper up at a great expense for some years, in order to create such political sentiment as might be profitable to his investments. He dealt largely in Tennessee bonds. It was known that he had voted for Garfield, and as Tom O'Connor always introduced him to Republican members of the Legislature when the two were lobbying with that body as "the Republican member of our firm," he was supposed to have Republican proclivities. This made it seem strange that his paper, the World, should so rampantly Democratic, pose as the party organ, and seek to dictate Democratic doctrine, and Mr. Cherry was very much criticised by papers not in accord with the World. He objected to all of this and considered himself unjustly dealt with, saying that he was only a private citizen.

There is much good that can be said about Mr. Cherry. He was a devout member of the Methodist church and was very liberal in his charities. The estate he leaves is estimated at \$80,000.

The Knoxville Lynching.

Sellers, the man who murdered and robbed young Maine in Knoxville last week, was taken from the jail in that city by a mob Friday night and lynched. The execution was bunglingly carried out and its details are shocking and barbarous. The mob carried their prisoner to the bridge over the Tennessee river and swung him off from one of the cross beams. His hands were not tied and he climbed the rope to the top and crawled along the beam. At least 50 shots were fired at him while he was performing this feat. A ladder was procured and a man went up to where Sellers was lying. A struggle ensued and Sellers fell into the edge of the river below a distance of 100 feet. He struck on a rock, and was terribly broken up. His body was found to be perforated with bullets. When the mob first approached Sellers in jail he had a knife in his hand and cut the first man who reached him about the face and head.

Great excitement prevailed in Chattanooga Sunday incident to an atrocious and unprovoked murder, which occurred there that day and the lynching of the murderer at night. Pulk Mitchell, a street car driver was killed by a negro named Charles Williams. The former ejected the latter from his car, because he was predicted the presence of ladies, used profane language and wouldn't pay his fare. Williams went home, got his pistol and meeting Mitchell shot him twice, and fired twice at his prostate body after it had fallen. The assassin was arrested and that night a mob went to the jail and hanged him. Some of the mob did some reckless shooting at the jail in which a negro named Ben Palmer and a white man named W. T. Nanney, were killed.

John L. Sullivan, the pugilist, got on a terrible "high" when he returned to Boston after the Cincinnati fight. While driving at lightning speed through the streets of the city of "culch," the buggy overturned with a crash, and the champion of the world was thrown headlong to the ground. Providence, it is said, takes special care of drunken men. We are sorry it was so, but the bruiser wasn't killed nor in any way seriously hurt.

A copy of "The Journalist" published in New York, has a portrait and biography of J. Army Knox, of the Texas Sittings, on its first page. In the biography it is stated that Mr. Knox has a keen eye to business and that the wonderful success of The Sittings was greatly owing to his shrewd advertising. This statement was rendered unnecessary by the publication of the picture and the biography.

The Jackson Whig nominates Commissioner McWhirter for Governor.

OUR WASHINGTON LETTER.

(From Our Regular Correspondent.) President Lincoln used to say that he looked under his bed every night for concealed office seekers. The present Administration, perhaps takes the same precaution. But it has also been looking over and under the desks and books so long held by the thoroughly Republican party and the day that some long concealed fraud is not discovered is an exceptional day.

The list has now become so large that it can not well be carried around in one mind. It will be interesting to see it written out in full and the amounts saved to the Government added up. And yet, the good work carried on under difficulties has hardly ceased. Investigations are new in progress about which the public knows nothing, but their results will be disclosed in due time.

It is well known that the work of discovering and reforming fraud and abuses is hindered and frustrated by the Republican clerks which surround the new Administration on all hands. How can they allow, much less assist with enthusiasm, the work of their countrymen who are so truly to be accomplished if the malefactors and their accomplices were turned out, and sincere sympathizers put in their places. The Republican clerks are doing everything in their power to impede the work of investigation and discovery. They are fertile in excuses, and specious explanations for the members of their party who have gone wrong.

I am told, on what seems to be pretty good authority, that the Civil Service Commission is likely to be reorganized in the interest of reform. If the half that is said is true it certainly needs it. An expense account of Commissioner Gregory has just been made public which shows that this reformer, when he travels, charges the Government for the newspaper he reads and the "tips" which the sleeping porters and the waiters at five-dollar-a-day hotels are given. It would seem to be straining a point for a reformer to make such charges as these under the clause of the law that provided for the payment of "necessary travelling expenses." If a Civil Service Commissioner is to have his "tips" and newspapers paid for by the government, where can it end? Why should not drinks and cigars be paid for as well. There are officials who might consider these necessary travelling expenses. But for a reformer who is getting \$11.50 per day and his travelling expenses to charge the government with five-cents a piece for the newspapers he reads and the two-bit piece with which he fees a servant seems small indeed, and under the law it is little short of petit larceny. Wouldn't the Commissioner have to black his boots and read a newspaper if he was not travelling, or does he indulge in the luxuries simply while on the road?

A prominent business man and Chairman of the Democratic Central Committee at Cleveland, Ohio, was in the city last week. He said that everything was looking particularly bright for the Democrats in that State. He carried the State by 12,000 majority two years ago. And he thinks he will have at least 20,000 this time. "The Democracy," he says, "is united and harmonious. They appreciate the importance of success, and the people see, since Sherman's had freak at Mount Gilead, that the Republicans have next to nothing to stand on except the bloody shirt issue. This has become tiresome and a large number of Republicans, who are disgusted with their party, but who do not exactly wish to vote the Democratic ticket, will vote for prohibitionists."

The return of the President to Washington will be the signal for an exodus from the watering places. It is expected that all the members of the Cabinet will be in the city before the end of the week. Secretary Whitney is expected at the Navy Department to-day. Secretary Manning has returned to the Treasury Department and is at work. Nobody knows where Secretary Lamar is, or if he does know, he will not tell. Hostile away last week, and it is supposed that he is enjoying a brief rest within easy reach of the Cabinet table. Postmaster-General Villis has telegraphed that he is on his way East. Attorney-General Garland has left his farm and log cabin in Arkansas, and is on his way to Washington. Secretary Bayard has not been absent except on Sundays.

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